



U.S. Department of Justice

**Ronald C. Machen Jr.**  
*United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center  
555 Fourth St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

### **For Information Contact:**

**Public Affairs**

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## **Man Sentenced to 15 Year-Prison Term**

### **In String of Hold-ups at ATMs**

#### **- Pled Guilty to Nine Crimes That Took Place Within a One-Month Period-**

WASHINGTON - John Woodland, 45, was sentenced today to 15 years of incarceration for carrying out numerous robberies and attempted robberies within a one-month period last year, crimes in which he targeted victims at bank ATMs in the District of Columbia, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Woodland, who has no fixed address, pled guilty in March 2011 to five counts of attempted robbery while armed and four counts of attempted robbery. He was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary.

According to the government's evidence, Woodland, often while armed with a knife, robbed or attempted to rob people as they were attempting to use ATMs in the District of Columbia. These crimes took place between April 20 and May 19 of 2010. They occurred at various hours, sometimes late at night but often in broad daylight. In some cases, Woodland used a knife to threaten his victims as he demanded money. He typically then used the victim's ATM card to withdraw hundreds of dollars in cash.

Woodland pled guilty to crimes that took place April 20, 2010, in the 600 block of Massachusetts Avenue NW; May 4, 2010, in the 1700 block of M Street NW; May 5, 2010, in Mount Vernon Square NW; May 11, 2010, in the 800 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW; May 13, 2010, at 1 Dupont Circle; May 16, 2010, in the 5200 block of Wisconsin Avenue NW; May 18, 2010, in the 1000 block of Vermont Avenue NW; May 19, 2010, in the 500 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and May 19, 2010, in the 800 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW. He demanded and got money in all but one incident: the last one, which led to his arrest.

In that case, plainclothes U.S. Secret Service agents noticed Woodland watching people as they walked in and out of the ATM vestibule. The agents saw him follow a woman into the vestibule and stopped him as he began to rob the victim. Woodland, who was armed with a knife, dropped the weapon. The agents handcuffed Woodland and held him for officers from the

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), who then linked him to the other crimes. Woodland subsequently gave police a statement in which he said he had been committing robberies to supply his addiction to crack cocaine.

In addition to these crimes, in a proffer of facts submitted by the government, Woodland admitted that he also approached two other victims at ATMs in May of 2010. In both instances, he did not get any money. In one, the victim began to pretend he was having a heart attack.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Detectives Steven Zachary Greene, Keith Tabron, Thomas Smith, Dennis Myles, and Kimberly Metivier of the Metropolitan Police Department, as well as the many other police officers and crime scene technicians who responded to Woodland's many crime scenes, and the Secret Service agents who interrupted Woodland's last attempted robbery. He also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Joshua Klein, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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